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## AFRL-Rome awards two-year contract to Ithaca firm

*by Fran Crumb, Information Directorate*

ROME, N.Y. — The Air Force Research Laboratory's Information Directorate has awarded a \$735,473 contract to ATC-NY, formerly Odyssey Research Associates of Ithaca, to extend research and development of technology to prevent computer attacks.

The two-year agreement, "Mobile Platform to Support Network Forensics" was awarded under the federal Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR) program. "Attacks on large computer networks can have a devastating impact," said John Feldman, program manager in the directorate's Defensive Information Warfare Branch. "During a sustained attack, few large enterprises — whether commercial or military — have a large security staff requisite for examination and monitoring of the enterprise's geographically dispersed network assets."

"ACT-NY engineers will develop a working prototype of a

mobile forensic computer platform," said Feldman. "Mobile forensic platforms are specially configured computers that can be quickly installed at any segment of a large enterprise network. This allows a physically remote forensic examiner to quickly and securely examine network resources." The concept of securing the forensic data of a computer attack is important to the integrity of the examination process.

"The feasibility of deploying mobile forensic platforms to potential trouble spots was demonstrated by ATC-NY in an earlier SBIR agreement that also established the technology's potential utility for commercial, law enforcement and Department of Defense use," said Feldman. A mobile forensics platform contains a number of software tools, which can help security analysts thwart sophisticated, coordinated computer attacks by quickly focusing on the attacker's targets and goals.

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